

Mayor's Monthly Message: October 2020

Florence has invested heavily in infrastructure for all areas of our town. We've updated codes and policies to make it easier to do business. In addressing absentee owners, we've collaborated with other municipalities, elected leaders, Arizona League of Cities and Towns and the Arizona State Legislature. Improvements take time, but it is rewarding to see positive progress. As always, if you have any questions about what is happening in our town, please feel free to reach out.

I'm so glad that Third Fridays are back in season! Join us downtown every month as the event grows to gather for a fun time and shop local. There was a musician, The Gunslinger, who was incredibly talented. Star Wars was also traveling through Town tonight. Also, a few new experiences were present on Main St. A local lady who is interested in an apocathery shop was there and I picked up some tea. The new owner of Gibby's has already put out some decorative lighting and is really excited as she moves towards creating an event space concept design. I also picked up some cute nails from Maudly in Love with Nails, a calendar from Casa de Baca, a delicious drink, "The Mayor", from The Old West Homebrew Saloon, and a delicious dinner. Great things are happening in Florence and there is more on the horizon. Especially with some of the commercial property sales that have occurred recently.

This month, the Town will join with municipalities across the state of Arizona, to participate in the League of Arizona Cities & Towns' 19th Annual "Cities & Towns Week." The time has been set aside to encourage residents to learn more this week about the services and programs that the Town of Florence offers to improve the quality of life in our community. The Town of Florence works 24 hours per day and seven days per week to deliver vital services such as fire and police to ensure Florence remains Arizona's safest community. Florence also provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents such as parks, utilities, street maintenance, sanitation, and recycling services, libraries, community centers, and recreational programs. It is important for the Town of Florence to continue to provide the excellent delivery of services and programs that our citizens have come to expect in our community. We ensure open and accessible government through frequent communication with citizens using various avenues and means. Through participation and cooperation, citizens, community leaders, local businesses and municipal staff can work together to ensure that services provided by the Town of Florence can remain exceptional elements of the quality of life in our community. This can only be done with the help of our employees. We have experienced unprecedented times this year and the Town of Florence continues to operate in a manner to ensure we are meeting the needs of our community. In doing so, we have creatively brought forward creative and innovative activities, ideas, and programs. At the same time, we have continued providing the day-to-day services as well as continued with our current projects and planning for the future of Florence. We will all get through this time together and return stronger. I feel blessed that we have such caring, compassionate, dedicated, and highly-educated and experienced professionals who work for the Town of Florence.

Cities & Towns Week is set aside each year to provide citizens with important information about the services and programs provided by their city/town, and to introduce the employees that deliver them. To learn more about how cities and towns are at work for you, you can visit www.azleague.org or find their page on Facebook at AZ Cities.

This is something that has been in the works for a while. At our State of Town, we announced this was coming. It is finally brought to fruition and it is something that is an asset for our community. The Pinal County Sheriff's Office and the Florence Police Department is pleased to announce Text-to-9-1-1 will be available October 1, 2020 to all of Pinal County. This allows residents in need of emergency services to reach a first responder via text, when calling is not an option.

Dispatchers at all of the following agencies are trained and ready to accept Text-to-911:

- Casa Grande Police Department
- Coolidge Police Department
- Eloy Police Department
- Florence Police Department
- Gila River Indian Community Police Department
- Pinal County Sheriff's Office

*For agencies not listed, PCSO will respond to the text and verbally relay the information to the Dispatch Centers.

The primary use of Text-to-9-1-1 includes:

- When an individual is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or has a speech disability.
- In situations where it is not safe to place a voice call to 9-1-1.
- During a medical emergency that renders the person incapable of speaking.

How to text 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter the numbers 911 in the "To" field
- Always provide your exact location and the nature of your emergency
- Push the "send" button
- Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions
- Avoid text abbreviations or slang

Messaging & Things to Know

- As with all text messaging, a Text-to-9-1-1 may take longer to be received, may be delivered out of order, or not received at all.
- Text-to-9-1-1 is not available if your cellular device is in "roaming" status.
- A text or data plan is required to place a Text-to-9-1-1.
- You will receive a "bounce back" message when texting is not available.
- Photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1.
- Text-to-9-1-1 cannot be sent to more than one person.
- Do not text and drive!

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence, AZ